

Look's Censor Bid Shocks Germans

By Drew Pearson

Reaction to Look magazine's move to censor the Manchester installments of "The Death of a President" as published in Stern magazine got a very sour reaction in West Germany.

Many German magazines and newspapers were established immediately after the war with financial help from the United States and with the admonition that they must be absolutely free of censorship.

The German public, therefore, had a hard time understanding why the Nation which preaches freedom of the press brought suit in Hamburg to stop publication of the full story of a tragic event regarding which the public should be entitled to know all the facts.

It was not easy for Germans to understand that the suit was brought by Look magazine in deference to Mrs. Kennedy and not because either Look or the U.S. Government believed in censorship.

While a West German court was upholding the American principle of a free press, the U.S. Supreme Court recently stamped its approval on the

type of Nazi personal espionage that once flourished under Hitler but now is suppressed in West Germany.

Only Chief Justice Warren, seeing the danger of Nazi techniques, wrote a strong dissent.

Nazi Spy Techniques

The case was that of Teamster Boss Jimmy Hoffa. As early as April 13, 1954, this column exposed Republican leaders, led by then Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, for abruptly stopping a congressional investigation of Jimmy Hoffa and Teamster operations in Michigan. One of these operations, revealed in a subsequent column, was the Flint Buick strike, after the settlement of which Mrs. Hoffa and Mrs. Bert Brennan, wife of another Teamster official, were made co-owners of the Test Fleet Company which hauled new cars from Detroit to various parts of the Middle West.

Repercussions from these columns continued for more than ten years, culminating in Hoffa's trial in Nashville, which resulted in a hung jury, and the subsequent trial in Chattanooga where he was convicted of jury tampering under circumstances recently reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Reason for the Chief Justice's strong dissent and for the parallel to Nazi tactics was

that the Justice Department used Edward Partin, described by the Chief Justice as "a jailbird languishing in a Louisiana jail under indictments for such state and Federal crimes as embezzlement, kidnaping and manslaughter."

Partin confided to a cellmate, "I know a way to get out of here. They want Hoffa more than they want me."

"Partin was taken out of the cell frequently each day," testified his cellmate. "Partin told me he was working with Daniels (a Louisiana deputy) and with the FBI to frame Hoffa. On one occasion I asked Partin if he knew enough about Hoffa to be of any help to Daniels and the FBI, and Partin said, 'It doesn't make any difference. If I don't know, I can fix it up. . . . I'm thinking about myself. Aren't you thinking about yourself? I don't give a damn about Hoffa.'"

Spy's Reward

As a reward, Partin was released from jail and, as Chief Justice Warren put it, "The state charges have apparently vanished into thin air." As an additional reward: The Justice Department paid Partin's divorced wife secret alimony.

One reason the Chief Justice's dissent is significant is because he began his public career as a crusading district attorney in Oakland, Calif., where he cleaned up crime on

the waterfront, one of the most lawless spots on the West Coast. Warren went on to become Attorney General of California, then Governor.

Warren, however, never engaged in police state methods, did not argue that the end justifies the means, and in his Hoffa dissent he cites a previous Supreme Court opinion:

"The government of a strong and free nation does not need convictions based on such testimony. It cannot afford to abide with them."

During the days of the American Revolution, the elder Pitt told the British House of Commons:

"The poorest man may in his cottage bid defiance to all the force of the Crown. It may be frail; its roof may shake; the winds may blow through it; the storm may enter, the rain may enter—but the King of England cannot enter, all his force dares not cross the threshold of the ruined tenement."

The majority of the Supreme Court has now held, however, that investigators for Bobby Kennedy's Justice Department may penetrate the "home" or entourage of a labor leader in the manner children spied on their parents under Hitler. No matter what Jimmy Hoffa may have done, his conviction is not worth opening the door to a police state in America.

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